

by the Central Drug Research Institute—a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

(d) and (e) An agreement has been signed with M/s. Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, Dacca, for the manufacture and marketing of the contraceptive centchroman in Bangladesh.

[English]

Drinking Water in Tamil Nadu

3326. SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the scarcity of drinking water in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of proposals submitted by the State Government for supply of drinking water; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The problem of drinking water supply in Tamil Nadu is being tackled by the State Government and the Union Government under the normal plan programmes of Minimum Needs Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Mini Missions and Sub-Missions under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. Under the Mini Mission Programme, Ramana-thapuram, South Arcot and Salem districts were taken up as Mini Mission Project areas. 21 desalination plants (20 already commissioned), 25 iron removal plants, 15 defluoridation plants (9 already commissioned), 7 district level water testing laboratories and 1 mobile laboratory were approved. The assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has been increased from Rs. 20.19 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 32.68 crore in 1993-94.

(b) The State Government has sent 139 water supply schemes for covering 139 villages and 149 habitations at an estimated cost of Rs. 431.91 lakhs for technical clearance under ARWSP. The project proposal for setting up of desalination plants in Ramanathapuram district at an estimated cost of Rs. 53.05 crore has also been received.

(c) The schemes are under technical scrutiny.

[Translation]

Financial Position of MITCO

3327. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial position of Mica Trading Corporation is very weak;

(b) the details of the profit and loss incurred by the company during each of the last three years;

(c) the main reasons in view of part(a) and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve its position;

(d) whether the Government propose to merge this Company with some other Company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Profit/Loss incurred by MITCO during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. crores)	
Year	Profit/Loss
1990-91	(-) 4.92
1991-92	(-) 6.78
1992-93	(-) 8.18

(Source : MITCO)

(c) The main reasons for the weak financial position of MITCO are lack of export orders due to changed economic/political scenario in East European countries, decanalisation of processed mica and technological obsolescence of mica and mica products.

Steps taken for the revival of MITCO include reduction of over-heads through administrative measures, enhancement of marketing efforts and introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to reduce surplus staff.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.